

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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TOM LUNA STATE SUPERINTENDENT PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Idaho State Department of Education 9/4/2014 www.sde.idaho.gov

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HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS CAN NOW APPLY FOR IDAHO SCIENCE & AEROSPACE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

BOISE – Idaho's high school juniors can now apply to take part in Idaho's Science and Aerospace Scholars Program.

Through this competitive program, students from across the Gem State take an engaging online course in space exploration and learn a broad range of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills aligned with Idaho's Core Standards.

Based on their performance in this course, students are then selected to participate in a weeklong, all-expenses-paid, residential Summer Academy at Boise State University and NASA Ames Research Center in California.

"Continuing into its sixth year, the Idaho Science and Aerospace Scholars Program is better than ever," Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna said. "This program offers Idaho's high school juniors the ability to gain a deep understanding of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, learning from experts that work in those fields."

Each year, nearly 200 students take the rigorous online course, developed by Idaho Digital Learning Academy and NASA Johnson Space Center, and then take part in Capstone Celebrations at different sites across the state. Based on their work in the course, about half of these students go on to be selected to participate in the Summer Academy held at Boise State University and at the NASA Ames Research Center in California.

The Idaho State Department of Education with the support of NASA Aerospace Scholars, along with Idaho business, industry, and education partners, have teamed up to provide this exciting opportunity for Idaho high school juniors for more than five years.

Superintendent Luna and astronaut and Boise State Distinguished Educator-in-Residence Barbara Morgan originally created the program in 2009 by working together to provide seed money from the State Department of Education and in-kind donations from partner organizations.

To apply, visit <u>www.sde.idaho.gov/site/science/ISAS</u> and download the application and instructions.

If you have questions during the application process, please contact Peter Kavouras at (208) 332-6975 or pgkavouras@sde.idaho.gov.

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